



May 11, 2015

Weekly Report

Highlight of Departmental Activities

The Weekly Report showcases the activities and accomplishments of the many Departments within Rutherford County Government. Click on the directory lists, headings and text in blue to be linked to more information.

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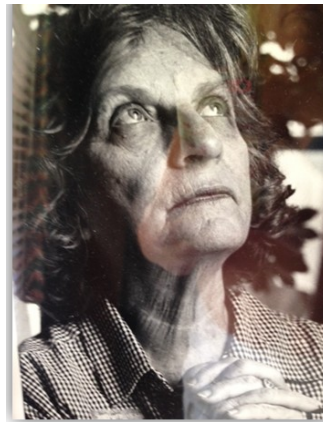
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Happy Mother's Day!



Since I, Kim Aldridge, have the privilege of publishing the Weekly Report, I presume I have dibs on whose mom will be honored for Mother's Day; therefore, I will take this opportunity to introduce one of the most amazing women in the world, my mother, Bobbie Kay Turner. She would give up her soul for her children's happiness. She is beautiful, softened at the edges but tempered with a spine of steel. There is no blessing quite so dear as a mom like mine! 😊

Wishing you all a very Happy Mother's Day!

Agriculture/Cooperative Ext.

Family and Consumer Sciences:

- Taught *Eat Smart Move More Take Control* class.
- Attended *Partnership For Children Executive Committee* meeting.
- Facilitated *Community Health Council* meeting.
- Taught *Nutrition for Parents @ Spindale* Elementary.
- Prepared materials for *Color Me Healthy* parent program at Forest City Dunbar Elementary.

Farmer's Market:

Looking for a unique gift for Mom for Mother's Day? Look no more! Stop by the Farmers Market of Rutherford County on Saturday, May 9th, and browse the wide selection of hand crafted items such as intricately carved wood items, aprons and scarves, as well as locally made soaps, jams and jellies, beautiful blooming flowers, potted plants and "first of the season" locally grown vegetables and fruits! Located at 172 Depot Street in downtown Forest City, the market is open Saturdays and Tuesdays from 8:00 am to noon. Make this Mother's Day extra special for your loved one by "buying local" and help support our merchants!

Airport

The Rutherford County Airport sold 1,267.5 gallons of 100LL and 348.0 gallons of Jet A last week.



Pictured is airport fuel specialist Mickey Cochran refueling a Gulfstream III jet that was on its way to Boca Raton. The G-3 is one of the largest type aircraft that can fly into our airport. The G-3 seats 19 and cruises at 556 mph.

Board of Elections

The Board met this week with the County Manager to discuss the Board of Elections location. Staff is working to insure that there is a signature on file for every voter in preparation for the State beginning online registration. As soon as official notice is received, we will begin the preparations for the Town of Forest City ABC referendum.

Building Inspections

Building Inspections has issued 57 permits totaling \$6763 in permit fees and our inspectors have conducted 403 inspections over the past two weeks. Work has significantly ramped up at the Tryon Equestrian Center as they are pressing towards a summer deadline before the show season begins. Included in the recent inspections are several commercial final inspections at Gilkey Lumber, Family Preservation Services and Shiloh Danieltown Fire department.



Pictured:

International Center at the
Tryon Equestrian Center

Due to its size, this is the building that Rutherford County Inspectors are inspecting for the Polk County building inspections office.



County Manager and Commissioners

The County Manager and Commissioners were engaged in another active week of numerous meetings, luncheons, and various other events, including the monthly Board of Commissioners' Meeting where the FY15-16 Budget Message was presented. Budget review special meetings will be conducted prior to the June 1 public hearing. Midweek, the Manager, Commissioners and Clerk to the Board traveled to Raleigh for the County Assembly Day where they were able to meet and hear from state legislative leaders and representatives **(pictured)**. Thursday the County Commissioner Advisory Council met at the Smoky Mountain Asheville office. The manager was involved with the Senior Center Advisory Board Member Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast. The week progressed with additional duties,



consisting of many calls, interoffice meetings, conference calls, public relations, advising, preparation for various responsibilities and meetings with various Department Heads.



Economic Development

This week, the Economic Development Department followed-up with existing industry regarding a possible expansion and conducted research pertaining to industrial recruitment activities. Economic Development staff continues to be busy working on marketing and advertising efforts, preparing grant applications, and reaching out to industry representatives to meet grant reporting deadlines. This week's schedule also included a meeting with the finance department for FY 15-16 budget review.

Fire Marshal/Emergency Management

Fire Marshal and staff:

- Traveled to Raleigh to participate in North Carolina State Firefighters Association Legislative day activities **(Pictured below)**
- Attended annual Taser training
- Worked with the Office of State Fire Marshal to complete the initial inspection of the new Shiloh-Danielstown-Oakland Fire Department substation on W.V. Thompson Road
- Provided assistance to several fire departments related to apparatus service testing
- Performed maintenance on equipment



Fire Marshal Roger Hollifield is the handsome guy about eight rows back and third from the left! Where's Waldo?

Finance

The Director and Assistant Director attended the Commissioner meeting Monday night. The Finance Office has posted the Budget Message and copies of the recommended Line Item Budget on the County website and continue to watch legislation from the State that may impact the County Budget. The Assistant Director met with Public Works and other Department Heads to update all users on the Vehicle Replacement Plan and how it has continued to evolve since its development. The Finance Director attended a Public Employment Law update in Cullowhee Friday. The Finance Office has processed accounts payable and has begun to work on payroll this week. We would like to wish Rhonda Owens well with her retirement!

Human Resources

The HR Director held meetings to discuss personnel issues, exit interviews, and retirements. The HR Specialist attended a State Health Plan training in Asheville on Monday and the Director attended the County Commissioners Board meeting. The Director met with representatives from Liberty Life Insurance, met with a member of the NCACC, and HR staff assisted with the County Blood Drive. The Director attended the JCPC meeting, and assisted in the retirement reception of IT Director Rhonda Owens (**pictured to left**). We wish Rhonda the best on her retirement and are envious of her upcoming cruise. HR Director, HR Specialist, and the Finance Director attended the Public Law Update hosted by the School of Government on Friday in Cullowhee.

Current vacancies are:

- Part-time Transit
- Part-time TDA
- EMS
- Library Associate.

Apply at Rutherfordcountync.gov or 289 North Main Street.

Thank you to all Relay for Life supporters. The plant sale was a huge success.

Also, thank you to all those that gave to support the American Red Cross (**pictured below**). We had 51 present to give and 40 that was collected. **Your generosity just saved a life.**



Library

Library Director:

The director worked on gathering and annotating monthly report information and started reviewing applications for the marketing/outreach coordinator position. A large collection of recently donated books were sorted and placed in storage for the next library book sale in the fall.

Circulation Manager:

On Wednesday, April 29th, Angela Black, the Foster Home Licensing Specialist for Rutherford County DSS, presented a foster parenting informational session at the library. She talked about the need for foster and adoptive homes in Rutherford County and also about the process for becoming licensed as a foster parent in North Carolina.

On Thursday, April 30th, Stephanie Long participated in a webinar entitled Makerspaces, Hacking Fashion, and e-Textiles about how libraries can offer fashion-centered maker activities to creative people in the community. The program presented several ideas on how patrons can use inexpensive tools and materials to make tote bags, infinity scarves, costumes, T-shirt stencils, and light-up garments.

On Tuesday, May 5th, representatives from Polk County Library, Rutherford County Library, Spindale Public Library, Mountains Branch Library, and Isothermal Community College Library met to work on revisions to the CMC Consortium Policy Manual.

Youth Services Librarian:

Continuing the food theme, the children of Story Time learned about nutrition and built their own food pyramid. Next week's topic will be "pancakes." Outreach was at Spindale Elementary School, with contacts being made regarding the upcoming Summer Reading Program. Plans are in full swing for the summer, with the programs starting June 16.

Haynes Branch:

Deb and Chrystal continue to work on getting the shelves and collection ready for the summer reading program. They have also spent time sorting and cataloging book donations either for library use or for the book sale in the fall.

Mountains Branch:

Joy Sharp attended both the Library Board of Trustees meeting, and the Mountains Branch Friends of the Library meeting. She also worked with other staff from the CMC Consortium to update the policy manual. Joy also worked on social media outlets for library events. Angie Turner participated in a webinar on library Makers Spaces and discussed with Joy what the library currently was doing in that regard – i.e. Knitters Club - as well as what they could do in the future. Joy helped plan a Moms' Time Out Mother's Day program for the library on Friday, May 8.



Public Works and Planning

As temperatures rise so have the daily demands and tempo of work in the County garage. We have had an increase in troubleshooting electrical/computer issues in vehicles. We have completed automotive repairs, tire service calls, preventative maintenance repairs, along with N.C. vehicle safety inspections. Thanks to the garage supervisor and mechanics who work very hard to keep the County's vehicles in such great mechanical condition. Our Maintenance crews have been very busy as well in completing numerous TrackIt work orders, preventative maintenance and the demands of groundskeeping. Thanks to all the maintenance staff for their hard work. The Operations Manager and Director attended a workshop to achieve required continued education for the water/wastewater certifications. Planning and Projects has been involved in multiple meetings, site inspections and paperwork regarding the following: Commissioners meeting; public hearing and planning board amendments; budget preparation; Capital Facilities planning; Tryon Equestrian support and growing infrastructure planning; Rail Trail improvements; and planning and future fund raising. Additionally, we have been researching grant opportunities for the county's historical and recreational properties. We've scheduled watershed inspections on the new AEO project, in addition to Greyrock and Queens Gap oversight. We are excited to report that the soil conditions at the Southeastern EMS and Library project has finally allowed construction activities to resume, and we remain hopeful that construction will be completed by November 2015.

Register of Deeds

Transaction Group	Cash
Copies	\$ 42.00
Real Estate	8,414.00
Marriages	540.00
Vital statistics	7,421.00
Total	\$17,287.00

Revenue Department

The Revenue Department is working on August motor vehicle renewals and handled 45 VTS assists. The office answered 717 phone calls and assisted 313 customers. We completed 3 plat reviews, 1 pre-permit and answered 6 Data Requests. Appraisers completed 76 field reviews. A total of 43 new documents were recorded. Transfers consisted of 32 straits, 7 estates, 1 acreage adjustment and 1 new account. GIS created 5 new maps. The GIS website had 154,520 hits and 106,690 successful searches. E911 addressing assigned 8 new addresses, ordered 14 new road signs, and updated 80 addresses with new owner information. Part-time maintenance workers completed maintenance on 10 road signs. One appeal was received and five listing form letters were mailed out. The PUV program assisted 5 program members. Staff processed 12 exclusions/deferments. We had 6 releases and 7 discoveries. Electronic payments consisted of 36 by credit card, 97 by website and 30 over the phone. Collection action consisted of 11 attachments and 7 newspaper items. Staff completed 9 gross receipts/occupancy taxes, 15 payment plans, processed 115 items mailed in and 2 bankruptcy issues. In person taxpayers at the counter brought in 388 tax payments. 10 new deeds were certified for recording purposes.

The Revenue Director and Tax Collector/Paralegal attended the 2015 NCTCA Spring Conference (**pictured on page 7**).

**2015 NCTCA Spring Conference
April 13-17, 2015**

Sherry Lavender – Revenue Director
Receiving Deputy Tax Collector Certification



Jessica Garrett – Delinquent Tax Collector/Paralegal
Receiving Assistant Tax Collector Certification



Senior Center

May has been designated Older Americans Month since 1963. This year, in honor of the 50th anniversary of the Older Americans Act, the focus is on how older adults are taking charge of their health, getting engaged in their communities, and making a positive impact in the lives of others. This year's theme is "Get into the Act!" The Senior Center's May calendar has a wide variety of special programs and speakers, as well as fun games and outings. Our new Walking Club met on Monday and will be walking together at 8:30 a.m. each Tuesday morning. On Wednesday, the seniors enjoyed a special musical performance by the Spindale Elementary 4th and 5th grade chorus. The Pen Pals group met on Thursday morning, and the seniors also enjoyed a fun game of "Butterbean Auction" and Square Dance class that afternoon. Lastly, the Center hosted a Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast on Friday morning to recognize all of our volunteers and show our appreciation for everything they do. The Senior Center would not be able to offer all of the numerous activities or serve meals everyday without the help from our many dedicated volunteers!

Social Services

PINWHEELS: A WAY TO LOOK AT CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION **Pinwheel Garden to Recognize Efforts to Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect**

Spindale, NC - April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. The Rutherford County Department of Social Services and the Rutherford County Clerk of Court's Office will join thousands of communities throughout North Carolina and the nation



in bringing attention to child abuse prevention with a pinwheel garden at the Rutherford County Courthouse. The garden was originally planned for the month of April to coincide with Child Abuse Prevention Month. However, due to a dock workers strike at the port of Los Angeles, the materials for the pinwheel garden are being held in customs and not expected to be released until mid May. Along with many other communities across the nation, the pinwheel garden will be planted later in the year, hopefully by the end of May. "We want to make the best of this situation. Even though there is a delay in planting the garden, this deferral can help the general public understand the role we all play in prevention every day of the year, and the great prevention work going on year round...not just in April," states Social Services Director, John Carroll.

The blue and silver pinwheel is the symbol of child abuse prevention, representing community efforts to provide children with the safe, stable, nurturing relationships they need for healthy development. Assisting with planting the garden will be local preschool children to represent the successful future to which they look forward. "Protecting children is everyone's business," said Carroll. "These pinwheels are a visual reminder of our collective responsibility and our promise to protect and support the children in our community."

All Rutherford County citizens are encouraged to learn more about the short and long term effects of child abuse and neglect on the child and on the community. "Our county's children will be the leaders of tomorrow and the source of our future community and economic development," said DSS Children's Services Program Manager, Amanda McGee. "When children experience abuse and neglect, it leads to poor self-esteem and inability to developmentally, which when left unaddressed, leads to a poor outcome for the child and the community. These effects include academic failure, chronic long-term health issues, and increased crime rates and violence."

Clerk of Superior Court, Steve Owens, says, "The courthouse is an ideal location for a pinwheel garden. We would like to keep anything dealing with child abuse outside the courthouse. Like DSS, once the issue of child abuse gets to the courthouse, it has past the prevention stage. However, child abuse and neglect can be prevented, and we want the community to know that we all have an important part in making that happen."

The pinwheel planting event will be held on May 22 at 4:00 pm on the front lawn of the Rutherford County Courthouse. In addition to the participation of the young gardeners, Judge Laura Powell, District County Judge for Judicial District 29A, Ted Bell, District Attorney, Sheriff Chris Francis, and Sherry Bright, Executive Director of Family Resources will address those in attendance. Anyone with questions or wishing additional information about this event may contact the Department of Social Services at 287-6165.

Soil & Water

District Staff attended the District Board Meeting and participated in the County Blood Drive.

Admin/Education Specialist:

- worked on the 2016 Strategy Plan report, District Meeting Agenda and meeting folders
- completed a NC Foundation Strategic Planning Survey

Ag Cost Share Technician:

- worked to finalize end of year reporting,
- spot checks and worked with land owner on contracting

Solid Waste

Customers served 371

Loads hauled from convenience centers 67

Loads shipped to Lenoir 36

Recycling loads shipped to Conover 2

Tire customers 22

Textile pickup at landfill 2

The director attended various meeting including the Commissioners meeting, meeting with Public Works Director at Colfax, and the vehicle replacement program. The director and staff continue to work on the closing of grants, new SDS book, and job hazards for each job performed at the landfill. The director also attended the retirement drop in for Rhonda Owens and we are thankful for all she has done for the county and the Solid Waste Department. The shop employees continue to service equipment while also performing preventative maintenance. The transfer station continues to run smoothly with the MSW and recycling. We continue to mow and weed eat the three areas of the airport property that are not under contract.

The Solid Waste Code Enforcement Officer report is as follows:

Open cases 9

Closed cases 3

Pictures taken yes

Cameras out on sites 1

State contacted for pickup of sites 2

Community service workers 4

Community service reports 1

Thanks to all solid waste employees that donated blood for the county blood drive. Please continue to recycle!

NOTE: The Landfill and 10 Centers will be closed, Monday, May 25, 2015, for Memorial Day.

Transportation Services

Emergency Medical Services:

EMS received approval from the Board of Commissioners on May 4th to proceed with in house billing. Commissioners also signed the proclamation for EMS Week, May 17-23. Staff have also worked diligently on community activities for Appreciation Week. Director attended the monthly Community Health Council and vehicle replacement meeting.

TYPE	CURRENT WEEK	WEEKLY AVG
Emergency Calls	159	168
Convalescent Calls	53	47

Transit Department:

Transit began work on a grant to RHI Legacy for cancer patient transportation funding. Cherry Consulting also provided all day training to drivers on ADA compliance and sensitivity. Transit also had a booth at May-fest on Saturday to obtain survey information from citizens on our 5 year strategic plan.

TYPE	CURRENT WEEK	WEEKLY AVG
Total Miles	8,966	9,566
# of Local Trips	1,033	881
# of Out of County Trips	71	66
# Unduplicated Passengers	204	238
Total Revenue	\$12,312	\$14,549

Veterans Services

Mail In	63
Fax	117
Mail Out	64
Phone Calls In/Out	138
Veteran Contacts	335

May Events

- Vettes for Vets Car Show, 5/10/15, McNair Field, Forest City
- Veterans' Charity Golf Tournament, 5/16/15, Forest City Golf Course
- Memorial Day Ceremony, 5/25/15, Downtown Forest City

County Commissioners

Bryan A. King, Chairman **Michael Benfield**
Alan Toney, Vice Chairman **Eddie Holland**

Steve Garrison, County Manager
Hazel S. Haynes, Clerk to the Board

Follow us online!

www.rutherfordcountync.gov



If you would like to assist with any of these events, call Jeanette Bosgra, Finance Dept., 828-287-6211.



WHOOOO loves Baseball? We DO!

We think the best way to enjoy the first game of the season is to come out and enjoy it with a giving heart! Purchase your tickets for \$8 and know that part of that will help in the fight to end cancer.

Opening game is May 26, 2015

Raffle tickets available to purchase at the game to participate in 50/50 raffle money giveaway!

For more Information or to purchase tickets contact:

Alma at 828-287-6125 or 828-980-1472
or Brandy Morris at 828-287-6203

DRESS DOWN FRIDAYS

Give \$30 and reward yourself with dressing down on Fridays!

April to June 2015

Call Brooke Watson for further details at 828-287-6061.

RELAY FOR LIFE COMMUNITY EVENT

Date: Friday, **June 5, 2015**

Time: 6:00 p.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Place: Forest City Parks and Recreation

Decorating Cupcakes at Mayfest!



*You and 1 guest are invited to attend
The Relay For Life of Rutherford County*

2015 Survivors Dinner

Tuesday, May 26th, 2015

*Florence Baptist Church Life Enrichment Center
201 South Broadway Street, Forest City
6:00 pm*

*All survivors should reserve your place at the dinner
by calling toll free 1-866-227-7798 to register by May 19th.
When prompted press option 3 then 0, if prompted
please leave a message for Tracy Nicholson*

*Please indicate when calling if you are
bringing a guest to the dinner and be prepared
to give your Survivor tee shirt size.
Tee shirts will only be given out at
The Relay For Life Event
on June 5th*

*We do hope you will be able to attend,
and we look forward to seeing you there!*

*Your presence is requested to walk in the
2015 Relay For Life of Rutherford County*

Survivors Lap

*Friday, June 5th, 2015
Forest City Parks & Recreation
Charles Summey Park
Forest City Dunbar Elementary School
6:00 pm*

National Day of Prayer

*Rutherford County NC Courthouse
May 7, 2015*



Trinity Christian School singing at National Day of Prayer



Several pastors and directors led in prayer and Rutherford County Sheriff Chris Francis prayed for education asking God to protect and bless teachers and students.

Pictures compliments of Danny Searcy.